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Description of a new species of Typhinae (Muricidae) from the Western Indian Ocean

by

Roland Houart
(3400 Landen (Ezemaal), Belgium)[1]

ABSTRACT

Typhis (Typhinellus) amoenus is described from Natal and Somalia. It is compared with *Typhis sowerbyi* (Broderip, 1833) and *T. occlusus* (Garrard, 1963).

SYSTEMATICS

Muricidae Rafinesque, 1815
Typhinae Cossmann, 1903
Typhis Montfort, 1810
Typhinellus Jousseaume, 1880.

Typhis (Typhinellus) amoenus sp. n.

Figs 1–5

Type material: Holotype, Natal Museum, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa (NMSA) S436/T1063: 29°45·8'S: 31°08·5'E, off Umhlanga Rocks, Natal, South Africa, 46 m, mud, 21 June 1989, Natal Museum Dredging Programme, stn ZX 4.

Other material: Aliwal Shoal, Natal, South Africa, coarse muddy sand, 40 m, February 1992, 1 specimen, M. Lussi colln; Ras Hafun, northeastern Somalia, trawled, 3 specimens, L. Bozzetti colln.

Description: Shell delicate, large for the subgenus. Spire high with 1.5 protoconch whorls and up to 6 weakly shouldered teleoconch whorls with impressed suture. Protoconch whorls rounded, smooth; terminal varix thin, erect, curved and oblique. Each teleoconch whorl with 4 sharp varices bearing a strongly curved shoulder spine. Apertural varix of last whorl expanded and dorsally reflected, forming small spinelike projections. Small partition above the aperture, joining the varix to the varix of preceding whorl. A rounded anal tube originates near preceding varix, forming an angle of approximately 65–70° with the axis of the shell. No axial sculpture other than numerous fine growth striae. Spiral sculpture consisting of 6 or 7 narrow and low threads on last teleoconch whorl, 5 or 6 very low threads on siphonal canal. Other teleoconch whorls almost smooth or completely smooth. Aperture rounded, edge erect and smooth. Siphonal canal long, broad, fully tubular. Shell whitish with brown spots on the outer apertural edge, along the partition, on the siphonal canal, and at the base of anal tubes.

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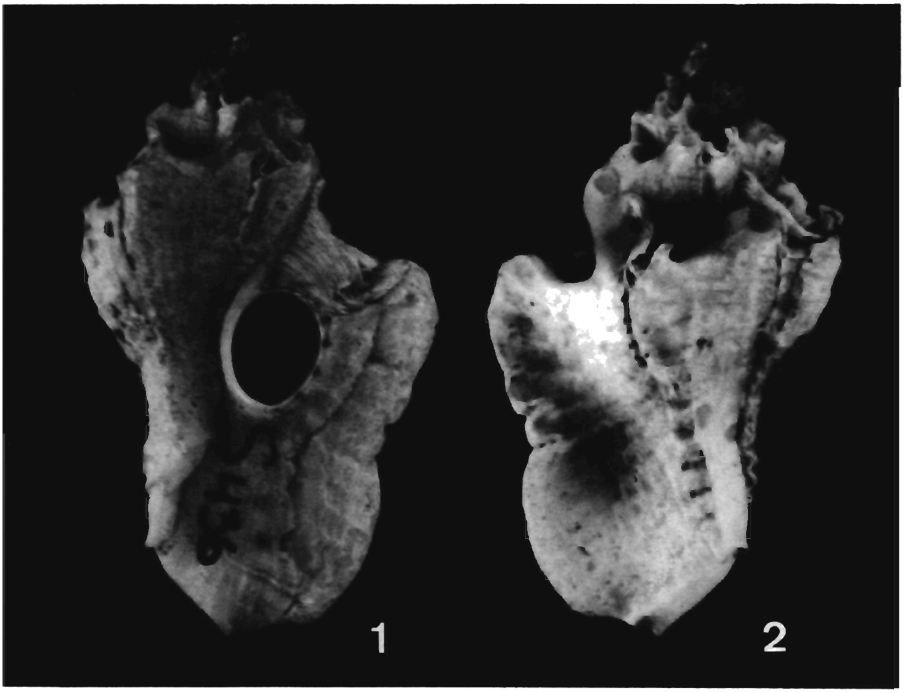
[1] Research Associate, Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique.

Dimensions of holotype: 21.0 x 12.7 mm.



Figs 1–2. *Typhis (Typhinellus) amoenus* sp. n., holotype, NMSA S436/T1063, length 21.0 mm.

Remarks: This species attains greater dimensions than the holotype, up to 33.5 mm in length (Bozzetti colln.). Although related to *Typhis sowerbyi* (Broderip, 1833), *T. amoenus* is almost twice the size, but with the same number of teleoconch whorls. Also *amoenus* has a slightly narrower shell, a higher spire, more prominent spiral sculpture, and a longer and broader siphonal canal. *Typhis occlusus* (Garrard, 1963) has a much higher spire, narrower and smoother shell, while the angle formed by the anal tube with the axis of the shell is 45–50°.

Etymology: From the Latin *amoenus* (delightful, lovely).

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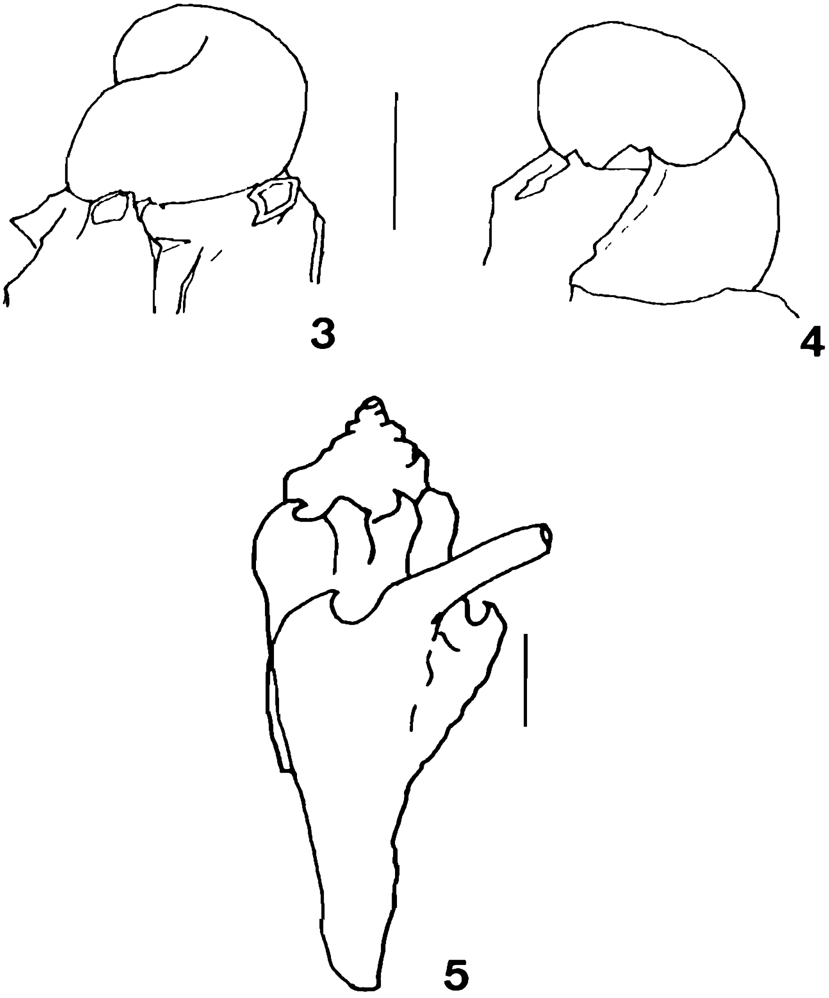

Figs 3–5. Protoconch and profile of *Typhis (Typhinellus) amoenus* sp. n., holotype. **3–4**. Protoconch, scale-bar = 0.5 mm. **5**. Profile, scale-bar = 2.0 mm.

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